

CLAIMS

1. A guard for a safety razor blade unit, comprising: a lubricating element for delivery of lubricant to the skin during shaving; and a backstop having an upper edge disposed to contact the skin during shaving in front of a blade edge and behind the lubricating strip, wherein the skin contacting edge of the backstop is interrupted by one or more channels to facilitate passage of lubricant to the blade during shaving.
2. A guard according to claim 1, wherein there are a plurality of channels separated by lands.
3. A guard according to claim 2, wherein the channels are not more than 3mm wide.
4. A guard according to claim 3, wherein the channels are at least as wide as the lands.
5. A guard according to claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the lands and channels are arranged alternately along the backstop at a uniform pitch.
6. A guard according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.1 to 2mm.
7. A guard according to claim 6, wherein the channel depth is in the range of 0.3 to 0.8mm.
8. A guard according to claim 7, wherein the channels have substantially upright side walls and a substantially flat bottom wall.
9. A guard according to any one of claims 1 to 8, including an elastomeric strip disposed forwardly of the backstop.
10. A guard according to claim 9, wherein the lubricating element is disposed between the elastomeric strip and the backstop.
11. A guard according to claim 9 or 10, wherein the elastomeric strip has upstanding projections thereon.
12. A guard according to claim 11, wherein the upstanding projections are tubular with open upper ends.
13. A guard according to claim 12, wherein the tubes are D-shaped in cross section and oriented with their flat faces directed away from the backstop.
14. A guard according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the

skin contacting edge surface of the backstop is defined by elastomeric material.

15. A guard according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the lubricating element is located immediately in front of the backstop and has an upper surface disposed at a level intermediate the bottoms of the channels and
- 5 the skin contacting edge surface of the backstop.

16. A guard for a safety razor blade unit, comprising a backstop having an upper edge disposed to contact the skin during shaving in front of a blade edge, wherein the skin contacting edge of the backstop is interrupted by one or more channels to facilitate passage of lubricant to the blade during shaving.

- 10 17. A guard according to claim 16, wherein an elastomeric strip is disposed forwardly of the backstop and has discrete upstanding projections thereon.

18. A guard according to claim 17, wherein the projections are as defined in claim 11 or 12.

19. A guard according to claim 16, 17 or 18, wherein the one or more
- 15 channels are as defined in any of claims 2 to 8.

20. A blade unit in or for a safety razor, the blade unit comprising a frame supporting a plurality of blades with parallel edges, a cap structure disposed behind the blades and a guard as defined in any one of the preceding claims.